

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method comprising:

- identifying a first license associated with a first protectable content;
- providing a plurality of known license attributes;
- associating at least some of the known license attributes with the first license;
- assigning a restriction value to each of the associated license attributes, the restriction values of the associated license attributes specifying particular restrictions pertaining to the first protectable content;

- assigning at least one use value and at least one interaction value to at least some of the associated license attributes, the at least one use value representing a permissible degree of distribution of the first protectable content and the at least one interaction value representing a permissible degree of manipulation of the first protectable content;

- comparing the assigned restriction, use, and interaction values of the at least some of the associated license attributes with corresponding attribute values associated with a second license, the second license being associated with a second protectable content;

- detecting whether an event occurred associated with the comparison, wherein the event is at least one of an incompatibility, an error, and a warning; and

- based on responsive to the comparison and the event detection, determining attributes associated with a third protectable content, the third protectable content being at least partly based on a combination of at least some aspects of the first and second protectable content.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first protectable content and the second protectable content correspond to different software elements.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the software elements are compliant with an open source definition.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the first protectable content is compliant with an open source definition and the second protectable content is not compliant with the open source definition.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first protectable content corresponds to at least one of a multimedia presentation, a video segment, an audio segment, a textual representation, a work of art, a visual representation, a technological know-how, a business know-how, and a contract right.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the license attributes associated with the first license correspond to at least one of a software code format, a software naming convention, a software code annotation, a warranty, a reverse-engineering activity, a patent litigation activity, a standards body, a violation of intellectual property rights, and a textual description of at least one aspect of the first license.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned restriction values correspond to at least one of a prohibition, a requirement, and a nullity.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned restriction values are set to at least one of true, false, required, don't care, forbidden, 1, 0, -1, and text.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned use values correspond to at least one of an acquisition, a personal use, a research use, an organizational use, a limited distribution, and an unlimited distribution of at least one aspect of the first protectable content.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned interaction values correspond to at least one of an original element, a modified element, a group of distinct elements, a group of interconnected elements, a group of elements capable of providing a desired functionality, a plurality of interoperable groups of elements capable of providing a plurality of functions, an unrestricted manipulation of elements, and an unrestricted ownership of elements of at least one aspect of the first protectable content.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
analyzing the first protectable content to identify the first license.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing the restriction values, use values, and interaction values assigned to the at least some of the associated license attributes of the first license;
storing the corresponding attribute values associated with the second license;
based on the comparison of values, identifying values associated with the attributes associated with the third protectable content, the third protectable content being associated with a third license;
storing the identified values associated with the attributes of the third protectable content;
and
using the stored attribute values of at least one of the first license, second license, and third license to determine attributes of a fourth protectable content, the fourth protectable content being based on a combination including at least some aspects of at least one of the first protectable content, second protectable content, and third protectable content.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing the restriction values, use values, and interaction values assigned to the at least some of the associated license attributes of the first license;
storing the corresponding attribute values associated with the second license;
based on the comparison of values, identifying values associated with the attributes associated with the third protectable content, the third protectable content being associated with a third license;
storing the identified values associated with the attributes of the third protectable content;
and
using the stored attribute values associated with the third protectable content to determine attribute values of a fourth protectable content, the fourth protectable content being based on a combination including at least some aspects of the third protectable content.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, further comprising:

based on the attribute values of the fourth protectable content, determining a plurality of license alternatives for the fourth protectable content.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising:

selecting one of the plurality of license alternatives based on an operational environment associated with the fourth protectable content.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising:

storing the plurality of license alternatives in a network-accessible location.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a third license representative of the attributes associated with the third protectable content.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

based on the attributes associated with the third protectable content, determining a plurality of license alternatives for the third protectable content.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18, further comprising:

selecting one of the plurality of license alternatives based on an operational environment associated with the third protectable content.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 18, further comprising:

storing the plurality of license alternatives in a network-accessible location.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one assigned use value is equivalent to a default use value associated with the first license.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one assigned use value overrides a default use value associated with the first license.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one assigned interaction value is equivalent to a default interaction value associated with the first license.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one assigned interaction value overrides a default interaction value associated with the first license.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned restriction, use, and interaction values of the at least some of the associated license attributes of the first license override at least some of the corresponding attribute values associated with the second license to form attribute values associated with the third protectable content.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned restriction, use, and interaction values of the at least some of the associated license attributes of the first license coexist along with at least some of the corresponding attribute values associated with the second license as at least some attribute values of the attributes associated with the third protectable content.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~detecting~~generating event information associated with the detected event~~-at least one of an error, a warning, and a conflict generated during the comparison~~, the event information including indicia pertaining to at least one of an event type, a frequency of occurrence of the event type, a related use value, a related interaction value, and an identifier associated with at least one of the first license and second license; and
storing the event information in a data structure.

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning at least one source value to each of the attributes associated with the third protectable content, the source values identifying attribute information associated with at least one of the first and second licenses that affected values associated with particular ones of the attributes of the third protectable content.

Claims 29-66 (canceled).